



National Defence

Défense nationale

Assistant Deputy Minister
(Infrastructure and Environment)

Sous-ministre adjoint

(Infrastructure et environnement)

National Defence Headquarters
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0K2

Quartier général de la Défense nationale
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0K2

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Sharon Ehaloak
Executive Director
Nunavut Planning Commission
P.O. Box 2101
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0



Ms. Ehaloak,

In 2010 the Department of National Defence (DND) was asked to participate in the supply of information to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) in support of the development of its plan for the territory. This letter follows recent discussions held between DND and Real Property stakeholders in the Nunavut Territory.

A review of the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (LUP) resulted in consultations with representatives from Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated during which it was concluded that changes to the content of the draft Nunavut LUP are necessary to move forward, specifically for the two findings outlined below.

The first finding centres upon the definition of *Special Management Areas* (SMAs) in the current draft Nunavut LUP in that the current definition is somewhat rigid and prohibitive towards any development occurring in the SMAs. At no time did DND intend to prohibit all development from occurring. The intent was to ensure that development, prior to NPC approval, gave consideration to DND and its need to protect against development contrary to its mandate and mission.

The *Real Property Management Areas* provided to the NPC by DND were defined as follows:

- Radome Setback Zones – established to minimize the impact of electromagnetic interference upon its facilities. The setback around the radar towers has been set at a distance of 8 km.
- Aerodrome Safety Zones – established around DND airfields and landing pads to ensure the continued safe operation of aircraft. The radii have been set at 4 km, 2.5 km and 1 km intervals applicable to runway, helipad and refuel points respectively.

DND will agree to redefine those lands currently termed as SMAs in order to displace the restrictions on development. However, DND requires that the above zones remain in effect and remain part of the Nunavut LUP. Moving forward, it is important that DND remain a stakeholder in the management of Real Property and in its care and direction for the territory.

The second finding is regarding the Joint Seismic Research Facility (JSRF) located in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut and its absence from the draft Nunavut LUP. In 1968 the Embassy of the United States and the Canadian Department of External Affairs (currently the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada) entered into an agreement to establish a facility in this northern community as a response to the 1963 International Agreement banning the testing of nuclear weapons. In 1996 this agreement was replaced by the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, to which Canada is a signatory.

In the 1968 agreement, it was listed in the provisions that DND will administer and control the lands on behalf of External Affairs. This remains in effect to this day.

DND requires that these lands be secured in order to uphold the provisions of the International Agreement that Canada has entered into with the United States of America. As such the JSRF and its reserve, Reserve 1853, will need to be incorporated and recognized in the draft Nunavut LUP. In doing so, the ongoing obligations of the Federal Government can be recognized and upheld.

DND and the Assistant Deputy Minister (Infrastructure and Environment) remain committed to Real Property management and planning in Nunavut. As an active participant, DND will continue to work alongside all stakeholders, at all levels of Government, to ensure their combined, future Real Property objectives continue to be met.

Sincerely,



Jaime W. Pitfield